AFFAIRS IN THE METROPOLIS.

MAYOR WOOD'S FIRST MANIFESTO.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

EMPLOYMENT FOR LABORERS GRANTED.

Movement of the Municipal Revolution

What the Mayor and Commissioner of Streets Are Doing.

THE STREET CONTRACTORS AND THEIR WORK

PROGRESS OF THE MUNICIPAL BEVO-LUTION.

WHAT THE MAYOR AND THE COMMISSIONER OF STREETS AND LAMPS ARE DOING—THE STREET CONTRACTORS AND THEIR WORK—REPORTS OF THE CITIZENS AND THE POLICE, CONTINUED.

The referm commenced by the Mayor has so far been attended with the most beneficial results to the city, in nore respects than one. He has already effected a revolution in the condition of the streets—a matter of no small importance, when we consider how many failed in aplishing it before he took it in hand. If this were accomplished, our people would have no reason dissatisfied; but he has not confined his attention to this. The complaints of the poor emigrants against the fraudulent boarding bouse keepers and runners have dressed, while the mock auctioneers have been com-pelled, in almost every instance that has been brought to his notice, to disgorge their ill-gotten gains. Some idea may be formed of what he has done in this way from the fact that over five hundred dollars have been restored to the rightful owners. Every case of fraud that is brought before him is tried imme-diately, without the aid of counsel, which he very wisely dispenses with in all simple charges, as consuming time unnecessarily. The departments, too, have all acquiesced in the justice of his demands, and have furnished him with all the information which he desired in regard to the details of their business. He inspects all their bills before signing the warrants for their payment, so that every single item specified there-in must receive his approval before the claim can be settled. From this brief sketch of the business which assiduity which he has displayed since he entered upon them, so should he be supported by every good citizen. We do not mesu to flatter him when we say that he has already accomplished more in the short space of one week, than any of his predecessors for years past accomplished in months. It was said that he would accomplished in months. It was said that he would fall before he was a week in office; but the week has past, and there are no signs of any relaxation on his part—on the contrary, he appears to be equal to the constantly increasing business of his office. So much we are, in justice, bound to say of him and what he has done.

The same energy has been infused into the street cleaning department by Mr. Joseph Ebling, the Com-missioner of Streets and Lamps. All the contractors have been notified that in every case of neglect to clean the streets in their district, when informed of their con-dition, the work will be done by other parties, and the expense deducted from the amount specified in their contracts. This order has been executed in two or three cases of the kind; but it is believed that its repetition will be unnessary hereafter, as the warning it gave to the others has been all-powerful in its effects. The following are the names of the contractors, their places of residence, the districts over which they have been ap-peinted, and the amounts for which they have con-

| Contractor | Residence | Amount | John Styles | 15 Moore | \$11,800 | Patrick Coyle | 141 Cnatham | 6,000 | J. H. Valentine | 9,575 | 7,000 | J. H. Valentine | 8,550 | C. Ziegler | 69 avenue A | 7,125 | Jas W. Bush | 56 Grove | 11,500 | Poter Palm | 19 King | 9,500 | Poter Palm | 19 Third | 7,276 | C. Ziegler | 5,750 | M. Moran and And. Candry | 227 Mott | 7,300 | Jas W. Bushe | 9,000 | 9,000 | 9,000 | 227 Mott | 7,300 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 |

The Twelfth ward not being regularly graded and paved, does not, it appears, come within the limits of Mr. Ebling's control, and is therefore not included in the the 17th of July next, till which time the contractors are required to keep their several districts in good con-

office of the Chief of Police by the police captains for the day previous:-

ome of the chief of Police by the police captains for the day previous:—

THE REPORTS OF CITIZENS TO THE MAYOR.

That Liberty street, from Broadway to Greenwich street, is in a fifthy condition, and has not been cleaned for two moaths; and that the ash-boxes are stolen from the sidewalks every day.

That obstructions are left by the street contractors around Leake & Watts' orphan house, preventing carriages from approaching it without danger.

That auction sales are made at the corner of Grand and Forsyth streets, in violation of auction law.

That the members of Hose Co. Red Jacket, congregate every Sabbath near the residence of Join Redmond, corner of Thirty-third street and Third avenue, and use all manner of profane expressions, greatly to the annoyance of the inhabitants.

That immense droves of cattle and swine are driven through thompson street every Sabbath.

That He Harlem Railroad has blocked up Twenty-sixth street with cars.

That sheds, which are kept open every Sunday, have been constructed on the Seventh ward side of Catherine slip, obstructing the street very much.

That B. Corneil, proprietor of the Madison Avenue line of stages, permits the driver of stage 968 to race in the street.

That the aidewalk between Thirty-seventh and Thirty-

line of stages, permits the driver of stage 968 to race in the street.

That the sidewalk between Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth streets, Ninth avenue, each side, is impassable from want of repairs, and has been so for two months; and that it is also in a very filthy condition, not having been cleaned for three months.

That the sidewalk in Eighth avenue, between Forty-ninth and Fiftieth attects, in front of the Eighth avenue railread stables, is in a bad condition, being composed of cobble stones, which make it dangerous for travellers. That Patrick Murray, of 73 Sunfolk street, sells liquor without a license, and keeps his store open on Sundays. That the ashes and garbage are left in Fourteenth street, between First and Second avenues.

That the captain of the Sixth ward police has been guilty of neglect of duty, in permitting Wood & Temlinon, of 410 Broadway, to occupy the sidewalk with sleighs and carriages. This nuisance has been tolerated for a long time.

son, or all decays and the substance has been tolerated for a long time.

REFORTS OF THE POLICE CAPTAINS.

Second Ward.—Fulton, John streets, Maiden lane and Liberty street are in a filthy condition, and the following lamps have not been lit:—In front of 181 Water street, corner of Gold and Ann, and in front of 121 and 131 William.

Taird Word.—The Captain of this ward says the streets are in no better condition, except that the mudis frozen, while in some it has been heaped up and left to be trodden down again by the harses. The lamps on the corner of Broadway and Cortlandt street and in front of 160 Greenwich street not lit.

Flyth Ward.—Captain Carpenter makes the following report.—"The streets look much-better than they did last week, the contractors having set men to work seraping up the ashes and mud and cartingithen away." Washington street, from Waits to Canal. is, however, stated to be in a filthy condition, and the gas lamp in front of 85 Franklin street was not lit.

Eighth Ward.—The sidewalk on the north-west corner of Vandam and Hudson atreets is out of order, as is also the sidewalk on the north-west corner of Spring and Greenwich streets. In front of 312 and 315 West street there are heaps of ashes. The lamps opposite 34, 24, and 126 Chariton and No 9 Vandam streets have not inheen, lit. The street between Canal and Hamersley, in West, Is said to be "in an awful condition," the mud nome places being over a foot deep.

Ninth Ward.—From this ward we have no complaints in regard to the condition of the streets, but the following lamps are reported as not having been lit:—Opposite 52 Bank street, 20 Commerce, 136 Waverley place, 112 Hammond, corner of Greenwich and Morton, and in Bank, between Riddson and Greenwich.

Elecenth Ward.—Captain Squires says that there are some streets in a very flithy condition in his district, and he particularizes Second, between avenues B and C. Clinton street and Sixth. There are large piles of ashes lying in the gutters are the near the street of the last named stree

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

Alderman Howard moved that the resolution of the Board of Councilmen, to pull down the old building, be taken from the table. This was carried, and Alderman H. moved that it be adopted. He was confident that there were many of the grumblers were not willing to work; he wanted to try them, and see whether they were really in need. The matter had been debated at the board before, and he hoped it would be concurred in.

The resolution to employ one hundred and fifty men, at \$1 a day, was carried, but the resolution providing that the Aldermen and Councilmen should appoint a certain number of men from their wards, was thrown out.

Adopted.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

The following communication from his Honor the Mayor was received, laid on the table, and ordered to be

tion.

The several annual reports from the executive departments have been several days before you, and no doubt thoroughly examined. In taking a survey of the attairs of the city, the first object to present is the condition of the finances. A statement with reference to it is herewith furnished:—

A petition was presented from mechanics and laborers out of employ, praying that they may be placed to work at pulling down the old ruins of the new City Hall.

The Streets and Lamps places lamp posts, and superintends the lighting and cleaning.

The City Inspector's Department attends to the removing of autisance, extrying off code horses and oliveral and the streets which effect their cantitary condition. But has numerous subordinates with light duties, but large compensation. Commissioners are appointed for each job, even to "declare" a street opened but fee cos block, and though it may remain closed for a quanter of a century afterwards. Many of these persons, ready and in fact, in person perform no actual duties, and are compensated in proportion to the delays produced and money expended. These places are often given as the reward for other than official service, which is not of much value to the city; some of this class may be called "professional street openers," whose time is devoted to the procuration of jobs of this kind, and by getting resolutions through the Common Council to "open" when there is no necessity for it; they are strong in partisan inducence.

The law, which gives to the majority of the property holders to be affected by an improvement when unnecessary, the power to, prevent, is inoperative before them; several instances have been recently brought to my attention, in which their influence over the Common Council has suppressed the voice of two-thirds of the parties in interest who had remonstrated against their further proceedings. If pressed they obtain delay in the Common Council, until all they can make out of the job is procured, whem they magnanimously withdraw their opposition, and the city must foot the bill, and their "est mate and assessments" amount to nothing. Some of these persons have several streets on hand at the same time, and make large sums of money. It is but proper to add, that sometimes there are commissioners who are not comprehended within this description of them as a class.

Another class, more useless, though not so expensive, is the inspectors appointed to superintend the grading, regulating and cleaning of streets, b

that the Aldermen and councilmen should appoint a certain number of men from their wards, was thrown out.

Alderman Drakk offered a resolution, that the Committee on Lands and Places be requested to inquire into and report the expediency of levelling off Hamilton square, and having it completely graded, &c., in order to give the laboring classes employment, and likewise to render the said square an ornament to the city. Referred to Committee on Lands and Places.

PRITTIONS INSTRUMD.

The petition of the Association for the Exhibition of Industry of all Nations, for an adjustment of the taxes of 1853; of Mrs. & . Union and others, to prohibit the driving of hogs through the streets.

FIRMKLIN'S BIRTHDAY.

Invitation to the Board to attend the celebration of the 189th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, the patriot, philosopher and printer, at the Broadway Tabernacle, on Wednesday evening, the 17th January. The Mayor will preside. Accepted.

THE MONEY FAID FOR SPECIAL ADVERTISMO.

Alderman HERLIEK offered the following resolution:—Resolved, that the Comptreller be, and he is hereby, directed to report to this Board what disposition has been made of the money collected for advertising upon the several sassessment lists confirmed by the Common Council during the year 1854, since he has stated, in a communication to the Beard, dated Jan. 5, 1855, that "the expenses of the official notices published by the assessions, and by the other officers in the street department, are supposed to be included in the payment of \$1,000 to the Evening Post and the other pays 15; and, since there was a special appropriation for advertising sufficient to cover all the expenses incurred by each and every department.

Alderman WM. TUCKER opposed the resolution, as it and the content of annothing the

the Eventual Post and the other papers;" and, since there was a special appropriation for advertising, sufficient to cover all the expenses incurred by each and every department.

Alderman WM. TUCKER opposed the resolution, as it was offered merely for the purpose of annoying the Comptroller.

Alderman Henrick said that they all knew that there was a certain amount of money for advertising levied on property that was improved; and it was evident from the Comptroller's report, that the money levied for that purpose was not so expended, and that, consequently, a further tax was thus levied on the newspapers for the purpose of putting money into the city treasury.

Alderman Vochuls was in favor of the resolution; he wanted all the information on the subject he could gea. Alderman Christin spoke in favor of the resolution, which was then adopted.

MISCRILANEOUS PAPERS.

A resolution calling on the Chief of Police for a detailed statement of stolen property for the last four years, and the disposition of the same, was adopted. A resolution directing the Street Commissioner to report to the Board the amount assessed upon the owners of property for the year 1864, for advertising by the Bureau of Assessments. A report of the Committee of Repairs and Supplies, in favor of concurring with the Councilmen to provide the judicial district known as the Seventh district with suitable court rooms; a communication from the Comptroller in relation to contracts for turnishing blank books, &c., for the Corporation; report of Commissioners of Assessments, in favor of concurring in confirming assessments for sewer in Forty ninth street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues; several reports in favor of reducing the past year; the Committee on Salaries and Offices reported in favor of confirming the nominations of the market clerks made by Mr. Gooderson. Adopted.

MAYON'S MERGAGE. unfrequently strives to thwart the plans of the others, and produce confusion. Every person having the control of private business or interest can see, without further comment, the reason why so large a sum is expended upon our streets.

The business care, concentration, uniformity and regularity so essential to the success of any enterptiae is entirely wanting.

A general cutting up and distribution of authority, creating irresponsibility and negligence, is productive of profligacy in expenditure and inefficiency in the performance of work. This abuse must be reformed. It has become too serious to be permitted longer.

The little time which has been left me for investigation consisten: with other duties, has satisfied me that the whole business should be entirely under the control of one department, and at least one of the existing departments could be abolished entirely. There should be a street department, having sole jurisdiction over the whole subject; some part of the duty could be advantageously given to other departments, without detriment or additional expense.

There should be a permanent Board of Commissioners, instead of three for each job as now, which should have the power to appoint permanent surveyors for the whole rity, instead of one for each work, as now. It should be made the duty of the law officer of the Corporation to give his servlees without any additional compensation, directly or indirectly, and if receiving fees, the amount should be paid into the treasury.

There should be one or two permanent inspectors for the whole city, provided any is required, which I doubt, instead of one for each job, as new. The duties now performed by the Bureau of Assessments should be does by the present board of Tax Commissioners, without additional compensation, who have not only sufficient leisure, but the surveys, maps, and the assessed values of every improved and unimproved lot in the city within their own office, by which to facilitate the duty. The collection of assessments should be made by the Mayor was received, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—
TO THE HONORABLE THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORE:—
GENTLEWEN—In my communication to your honorable body, on the 1st inst., I purposely omitted many recommendations and subjects of interest, and promised that, as soon as you were organized and ready for business, they would be made.

It is the duty of the hisyor to communicate to the Common Council, at least once in each year, a statement of the affairs of the city. In pursuance of this duty, and of the promise made by me, I submit this communication.

sure, but the surveys, maps, and the assessed values of every improved and unimproved lot in the city within their own office, by which to facilitate the duty. The collection of assessments should be made by the receiver of taxes.

That branch of the service coming under the head-of repairs should be severely scrutinized, and every dollar accounted for under the most stringent rules of accountability, and nothing should be expended except upon previous appropriation, with specific reference to the object for which the money was intended. The inconvenience and delays which would attend previous appropriations upon detailed estimates for even small sums could be of little consideration as compared with the principle of unauthorized expenditures, with the official profligacy which too often follows in its train.

TAXABLE PROPLETY.

Another matter of much importance is the feasibility of enlarging the basis upon which to levy tax. The Board of fax Commissioners, organized a few years since, has added much to the taxable basis of real and personal estate. There is yet room for increase.

Notwithstanding the vigilance of these officers and the assessors, a very large amount of personal property escapes, and an undue proportion is consequently put upon real estate. A distinction is thus created entirely unjust to real property, calculated not only to affect its value, but to retard the growth of the city. There is no solid reason why distinction should be made in the kind of value—whether real or personal—upon which we levy tax. So long as the principle of taxation is upon property, all property should bear alike.

Besides the large amount of personal estate that escapes in consequence of the inability to discover it, there are immense amounts belonging to foreign manufacturers and traders, in the hands of agents resident here, who refuse to recognize our authority to collect. A very large sum thus gets clear.

This fore'gn property receives all the protection which the city government affords, in common with that

due advantages.

Feople who pay taxes cannot sell merchandise as low as those who pay none. Means should be taken during the present session of the legislature to procure the passage of a law making the property of foreign manufacturers and others liable to taxation.

his bonds should be made responsible to the city for any liability thus incurred.

Diaburaing officers must be confined within the spirit, as well as the letter of the charter, which provides that no money shall bedrawn from the city treasury, except the same shall have been previously appropriated to the purpose for which it is drawn.

An honest version of this provision makes it applicable to the creation of an obligation, to be liquifiated out of subsequent appropriations, as it is to that directly referred to.

SUSPENDED SALES FOR TATES AND ASSESSMENTS.

ble to the creation of an obligation, to be liquidated out of subsequent appropriations, as it is to that directly referred to.

SUSPINITION ALES FOR TAXIS AND ASSUSSMENTS.

You should also take measures to collect about seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars from the suspended sales for taxes and assessments, which can be obtained upon the necessary legislative action empowering the Comptrolier to proceed. The sum is sufficiently large to demand your immediate attention.

CONTRACTS.

The present mode of making contracts is defective. Notwithstanding the improvement of late years, in exacting more publicity, in opening bids, and in guarding against favoritism in granting contracts, yet it is suppresed much wrong still exists. There is no doubt that Itauds are still perpetrated in this branch of the public service. Bids are frequently put in in the name of fictious persons, ranging from a high to a low estimate—speculators standing ready to take alvantage of any embarrassment to the department owing to the non-appearance of the false bidder, and to get the contract at the highest possible limits. Again, it is the practice to put in estimates, not with the expectation of making and performing a contract, but to be bought off by some more re-possible party, who has been under bid. Various other ways, the details of which are known only to the initiated, are in voque, by which to defraud the treasury. If the head of a department acts in collusion with these outsiders, it is next to impossible to prevent frauds under the present system.

One of the best safeguards may be found in more general publicity, in offering to receive proposals. The expense of advertising is of no importance, as compared with the benefit to be derived from it.

The object of offering public proposals to make contracts, its to invite competition and prevent the high prices, which monopoly produces; it is defeated if the advertisements are published in obscure papers, unknown to, and unread by, the mass of the people.

Too much publicity can

able. So far as rail travel in this city can allect them, the present roads may be said to have a monopoly. A recent state law secures their grants, and in effect precludes opposition or annoyance; they occupy, to the exclusion of all other citizens, the centre of our best business avenues.

Exclusive privileges are always to be deprecated; but when granted, the city should in return receive an ample pecuniary equivalent. A revenue of forty thousand dollars could be procured from this source, besides the saving of the very heavy cost of repairing and cleaning the thoroughfares.

The omnibuses should also keep in repair and clean the streets through which they pass, or pay into the treasury a sufficient sum for that purpose.

These vehicles do more injury to the parements than all the rest of the travel together, and the city in return, receives no pecuniary ald from them for that purpose whatever. The existing lines of omnibuses are well secured in their priv lege, having, by the law of 1864, made it so difficult to procure licenses for competing lines, that they now enjoy almost a monopoly. How far the out town railroad lines, entering the city, are subject to municipal regulations, I am not at this time enabled to advise; my opinion, however, is that there is nothing in their charters entitling them to exception from any tax which you may deem a fair equivalent for the right of way they now possess.

If upon consultation with the Counsel of the Corporation, there be no legal obstacle, I make the same recommendation as to a car tax, and the cleaning and repairs of the avenues and streets through which they pass, as made with reference to the city railroads.

XEMBRANTS.

It is well known that for many years extortions and oppressions of the most inhuman character have been practised upon the emigrants coming to this port.

There are not to be a series of organized classes of persons, all connected, and acting from a common impulse of plunder, who take and keep possession of their victims as long as a sixpence i

der, A. v. 2 (10.4 Aus.) Excellent to repeate with the security and only a street of the control of the control

from the several officers, who shall, in all cases, be made responsible for the conduct of the subordinales under their command.

It was thought that making the police hold office during good behavior, would remove it entirely from political influences. It may have had such an effect, to a degree; but whilst the power to appoint asspend, and remove, is political and elective, it will be expecting too much of human nature to suppose that political influence can be excluded altogether.

A perfect police system must be founded upon freedom of all influences, except those produced by merit, arising from a ratiful and efficient discharge of duty.

When the generals of an army new periodically subjected to change, and in some measure by the voice and influences of the army itself; it will be almost impossible to remove the partiann elements, which, at every election, are necessarily aroused into activity.

The whole Police Board was elected at the late election—two of the late board, (the Recorder and City Judge,) being candidates for re-election—and policemen would have been more or less than men, if they could have remained is different spectators of the result.

I am enddent the judiciary is not the proper authority for determining police matters, nor are its members qualified, either by habits of life or train of reflection, to make good commissioners. The bench and the service would each be benefited by a separation. My colleagues on the present Police fourd fully concur in these opinions.

It shall be my aim to impress all connected with the police that official mert, and not partisan influence, is what is expected of them, and so far as my power extends, it shall be exercised for the entire eradication of politics form the department.

On the first of January, Instant, I issued new orders,

It shall be my aim to impress all connected with the police that official mert, and not partisan inducene, is what is expected of them, and so far as my power extends, it shall be exercised for the entire eradication of politics from the department.

On the first of January, instant, I issued new orders, a copy of which is annexed, [already published in the Henath,] and to which I call your attention, as developing the principles upon which I shall administer the department. In connection with this subject, it may be proper for me to add, that there has been opened in the Mayor's office, under my direction, a book for recording complaints against the police, as well as for violations of the ordinances and laws, where charges will be entertained, and acted upon by me in person.

The police are required for several purposes other than the protection of the public interests of the city, for which it should not be colliged to pay.

There is one squad of the reserve corps detailed for the duty of boarding vessels from foreign ports, with emigrant passengers; and other service rendered, before referred to, which should be paid from the fund of the Fmigrant Commissioners. Many other policemen are statioused at the several railroad depots and ferries, and at places of public amusement, by request of the proprietors and for the protection of their private interests, and not for public purposes. This expense shoull be borne by the parties requiring their services. In London, where the police system is said to be better than our own, such is the practice; and the general government has adopted the same course with reference to the salaries of its custom house officers, when acting for private convenience or safety. About thirty thousand dollars would be thus saved.

The expense of the police force has attracted attention, and it has been properly suggested that it can be used for many public purposes, for which the city now pays heavily.

In considering the cost of the police, it should not be forgotten that it is almost

I cannot omit expressing my conviction that much benefit could be derived to the city, by separating the election for charter officers from that for State or national efficers.

As now conducted, our local interests are almost entrely lost sight of in the conflict on State or national issues. As the lesser is always absorbed by the greater, so is the apparently smaller affairs of our city government lost sight of in the contest on candidates for higher efficers.

so is the apparently smaller affairs of our city government lost eight of in the contest on candidates for higher offices.

The magnitude of our municipal interests calls for the closest scrutiny into the qualifications of persons to take charge of them, no other considerations than those connected directly with local questions should be included in the canvass for city rulers. The evils of frequent eleritons are of lettle importance as compared with the danger of the selection of improper men. In the struggle for a Governor or a President, persons entirely disqualined will sometimes slide unobserved into a local place of trust and power.

The election law, which places the candidates for county officers on the same ballot with candidates for State officers, increases the evil. At the late election there were twelve names on the same ballot; in the haste and excitament of election day, it is very difficult for even the most intelligent voter to select the names for whom he desires to vote when found upon the same ticket; but where the duty is imposed upon the literate or ignorant it is seldom exercised, especially if there be a cunningly devised ballot, not permitting creasure or substitution.

CENTRAL PARK.

The commissioners appointed to open the Central Park are progressing with the work. Since the organization of the Board, it has collected and examined evidence of title to the lands to be taken for the park; in causing the necessary surveys, maps of blocks and profiles of grades to be made; in personal view of the lands to be taken, and in procuring such information in regard thereto, as may serve to guide to a just valuation of the same; also in determining the area of assessment for special benefit, and procuring maps of the same, and in procuring evidence of the value of the improvements on the land to be taken, and are now engaged in the valuation of the lands the enternous maps of the same, and in procuring to the same is also in determining the company of the same, and in procuring to the lands the b

academics of tuition for the children of nearly the whole population. The cost to us in taxation is not one fifth the usual expense for an ordinary pay achool education. Indeed, there are few real estate owners, with families, who cannot get his whole tax returned by mading his children to the public schools, with the advantage of a better and more thorough education, and a discipline and moral training far more perfect than our fashionable "academies for young gestlemes" can settend to.

Therefore, while discountenancing extravagance in any public department, yet having full confidence in the gentlemen who have charge of the public education of this city, and deeply appreciating the system, I cannot recommend any step towards interfering with the management of it, so long ast continue to improve in efficiency and public benefit; and holds, as it does now, the peation of our brighest ornament, with the prospect of being the fruitful source from wheace we are to derive yet higher honor and more brilliant results.

I cannot teo carnestly impress upon you the necessity of a revision and a collecting of the ordinances into one or more volumes, and a codification of the laws applicable to this city. It would be simost incrediale to astranger to be told that there is no collection of the laws by which this city is governed.

A collection of ordinances has not been published since 1845, and of that but few copies remain; since 1845 material amendments have been made to the charter, and numerous resolutions and ordinances have been when the common council is the only index in existence.

The more statement of the flerk of the Board of Alderwey in the office of the Glerk of the Board of Alderwey in the office of the Review of persons whe have charge of that office. The memory of persons whe have for many years been connected with the Common Council is the only index in existence.

The more statement of the fact, will, I am confident, procure action.

The bocks.

The more actument for the subjung of the city, is another

mercial city in the world, of the magnitude of New York, as echelent. Substantial stone or from docks and piers should be constructed, which would not only be durable, but in the result far more economical than those now in the funded debt could be created for the payment of the cost, leaving to posterity, who are to be the recipients of the advantages derived from the construction, the liquidation of the obligation. The present, as well as the future accommations for the shipping, which constitute as great an element in our prosperity, demand some action at your hands so this subject.

NON-PAYMENT OF CONTACTORS AND OTHERS.

Much distress has recently been caused to persons having demands against the city, owing to the non-payment of salaries, and for supplies furnished, and contracts performed. Great injury has resulted to many individuals of small means from this cause. At any time, disappointments of this kind bear oppressively, but at a period of great monetary stringcae, like the present, it is a hardship exceedingly onerous, and should not again occur. Besides the wrong done to the party having a just claim, in omitting to meet the demand, the injury to the treasury is not insignificant. We need not be told that a poor paymaster has to pay highest prices than he who meets his engagements promptly.

It is not unreasonable to expect that the city creditors will provide themselves against the loss arising from the difficulty in getting their dues, by charging sufficiently to cover the loss arising from those delays. Without recommending any relaxation in adherence to the in we and ordinances governing the disbursement of money, i cannot omit to appress the hope that you will take immediate means to prevent a recurrence of expect in a way and the creditors of the city, and preserve its faith and credit from dishonor.

Another relief to the citizens could be found in the adeption of some mode to prevent the large collection of omnibuses in Broadway below the Park. In my opinion the stages row permitted togo to

power, I shall require a strict compliance with the existing contracts to clean the streets; and that I may know
which of the contractors are derelict, the police have
been ordered to make the condition of the streets in their
several beats the subject of observation, and to report every day the result.

I am not prepared to make any recommendations with
reference to the executive departments not alluded to
here is. I shall communicate to you from time to time
such matters relating to them as call for your action.
FERNANDO WOOD.